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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/824,193	04/02/2001	Johannes-Jorg Rueger	10744/4200	1578

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EXAMINER

BUDD, MARK OSBORNE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

824193

Applicant(s)

Rueger

Examiner

M. Budd

Group Art Unit

2834

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received

in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4/7-9-01 ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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Claims 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

These claims are vague and indefinite in that they purpose to be drawn to a method for charging but no process or method steps are claimed. Also in claim 12, "the control unit" has no antecedent basis.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Japan (753) or Japan (684).

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Moloney or Mitsuyasu.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 3-7 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moloney or Mitsuyasu in view of Takada or Jaenker .

Moloney and Mitsuyasu teach compensating a stack of piezoelectric elements in a fuel injector for travel distance based on variation, between actual and ideal conditions. Takada and Jaenker teach measuring the relationship between voltage and displacement and thus obtaining a correction factor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select from among known compensation techniques and thus to use voltage factors in the devices of Moloney or Mitsuyasu.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moloney or Mitsuyasu in view of Takada or Jaenker as applied to claims 3-7 and 10-14 above, and further in view of Barron or Estevenon.

These claims add that an EEPROM is used to record manufacturing history developed correction factors. Each of Barron and Estevenon teach using an EEPROM to record the history of each value of an injector system. To apply this known compensation method to a value using a specific transducer (piezoelectric vs magnetic) would have been within the skill expected of the routineer and therefore obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

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Further cited of interest are Wisner, Kondon Nakano Yoshino, Hoffmann (174) and Hoffman (715).

Budd/ds

03/22/02



MARK J. BUDD
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 212